

## SEWARD TOWNSHIP

P.O. Box 7 • Seward, Illinois 61077

Attn: Dave Navecky-Docket No, FD35952

May 9, 2016

Surface Transportation Board

Office of Environmental Analysis

395 E. Street SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

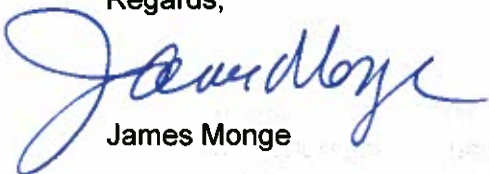
Dear Mr. Navecky:

I am writing on behalf of the Seward Township Board of Trustees, Winnebago County, Illinois, in opposition of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC. Rail line project, Docket #35952. On April 12, 2016, the Seward Township Board of Trustees, approved a resolution by unanimous vote, to oppose the proposed rail line project for the following reasons:

- Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC is a closely held private venture that is trying to use the Government's powers of eminent domain to either take away, or greatly disrupt, privately held farmland, of which many farms have been in the same family for four or five generations. There is no gain to be enjoyed by the general public by the taking of farmland for this project, only the possible financial gain of the unknown investors.
- Added train crossings will be disruptive to everyday travel. School bus routes will be lengthened; ambulance routes, where **precious minutes may determine the difference between life and death**, will be delayed due to added train crossings and lengthened routes, or sometimes simply "stuck waiting for the train to pass" when no viable alternate route is available.
- Prairie hiking paths, conservation areas, streams, ponds, woodlands, wetlands, and farm drainage tiles will all be disrupted, not to mention the risk of any hazardous spills that may (will) occur causing lasting damage to shallow wells and quite possibly the aquifers used by municipalities.

We are asking you to please deny the proposal to move forward with any permitting or environmental studies.

Regards,



James Monge

Clerk, Seward Township

Seward, Illinois 61077

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SEWARD, IL 61077

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